*The Kingdom*: Film Analysis

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*The Kingdom* takes place in Saudi Arabia and focuses on the investigative aspect of a specific terrorist attack. We watched it in class to go with our Middle East unit, and have to write a film analysis. I apologize for what is probably the lamest intro ever, but I can’t really think of a way to introduce the analysis, especially since the synopsis is already a part of the analysis. Anyhow, here’s my film analysis.

**Synopsis**

The movie starts with a documentary style timeline that explains how oil drilling has transformed the Middle East and the conflict that has arisen over the oil industry. Eventually, the 9-11 terrorist attack is explained, as well as the implications it has on relations between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. After the timeline, the movie opens during a softball game in Saudi Arabia. During the game, terrorists disguised as Saudi police kill many people in a drive by shooting, and a suicide bomber blows up himself and the people around him. Shortly after, a second bomb explodes, killing many more people. Several of the people killed in the attack are Americans. A team of four FBI agents from the U.S. is sent to investigate the incident under Saudi supervision.

**Example of Contemporary Middle East**

An excellent scene that helps the viewer better understand the modern Middle East is the opening scene. The first scene depicts a softball game that is interrupted by a drive by shooting. Putting the drive by aside, this scene shows cars, police officers, and homes that resemble those of typical Americans. These things, along with the softball game, show that people in the Middle East live lives that are very similar to life in America. The drive by, however, shows us that the Middle East is not completely stable and has a hidden fear. The U.S., though, isn’t completely stable either.

**Favorite Scene**

My favorite scene from the movie is the final scene. Earlier in the movie, a woman in the FBI briefing room had cried when she heard the news of the attack in Saudi Arabia because her husband had been killed in the attack. Agent Fleury whispered something to the woman that comforted her. Later, a Saudi terrorist is killed in his own home, in front of his family. The terrorist’s child hugged the dying man, and the latter whispered comforting words to the child. In the final scene, both the child and agent Fleury are asked what was whispered. Both answers go something like “Don’t worry, we’ll kill them all.” I like this scene because it shows the immense animosity between the terrorists and the U.S. that is the cause of so much destruction.

**Favorable Impression**

One scene that gave a favorable impression of the Middle East is the opening scene. In the opening scene, a softball game is taking place. There are police officers nearby, as well as cars parked in the streets, and fine looking homes with green lawns. The roads are paved, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. Although there was a drive by shooting in the scene, the shooters were stopped, and it was clear that the crime was highly organized. This demonstrates a capable police force. The above statements show that the Middle East (at least this part of the Middle East) is prosperous and secure, just like America.

**Unfavorable Impression**

The opening scene in the movie casts the Middle East in an unfavorable light. Having already viewed an animated timeline that explains the connection between the   
Middle East and the 9/11 attacks, the audience witnesses a drive by shooting coupled with a suicide bombing that is followed with a devastating car bomb. These attacks take place during a community softball game in Saudi Arabia. Already having a negative view of the Middle East left by 9/11, this scene leaves an American audience with the impression that the Middle East is a volatile and unsafe place, full of people willing to commit acts of terror upon anyone, even fellow citizens. This impression is especially powerful because it is the first impression that the audience is given.

**Conclusion**

Well anyhow, that was my film analysis. Sorry for the really lame conclusion. Usually, my conclusion goes something like “due to the above reasons, we can see that *blablabla* is true.” Since this paper doesn’t have a thesis, however, the introduction and conclusion are basically just filler. That should be enough. Auf wiedersien, Mr. Mcfadden!